

Text: Ezra 10:1-44
Topics: Confession, Repentance, Sin
Series: Courage to Trust God's Promises

Monroe Bible Church
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Facing Failure

I. Response to a Confession (1-8)

Ezra... *cried out in grief over the sin*
Shecaniah... *confessed, concluded, challenged*
Leaders... *called an assembly*

The people were moved to conviction of sin!
What moves me to conviction of sin?

II. Response to a Confrontation (9-17)

The requirement... *confession & repentance*
The response... *acceptance & commitment*

Conviction of sin became repentance of sin!
What helps me move beyond conviction to repentance?

III. Response to a Completion (18-44)

Why are the people named?
Why does the book end abruptly?

Be people of courage to trust God to do His will in the face of fears, hardships, and failures.

What do I need courage to trust God for?

Application Questions - *These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.*

1. If someone confronted you with a sin of yours how would you respond and why?

2. Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-23. What was Uzziah's sin? Why was it hard for Uzziah to face his sin?

How might Uzziah have better prepared himself to not sin like he did, and to respond better to confrontation for his sin?

What are you doing, or can you do, to help you be ready to accept an honest confrontation over a sin you may commit?

3. Read 2 Samuel 12:1-14. What was wise about the way Nathan confronted David concerning his sin? How did David respond?

What good did it do for David to confess his sin? Did it help him avert painful consequences? Why, or why not?

Have you had to live with painful consequences for a sin? Care to share it? What have you learned about how to accept the consequences for sin and move forward in life?

4. Read Matthew 26:33-35, and Matthew 26:69-27:5. Why were the failures of these two men so painful? Why did they respond differently when confronted?

Compare what Judas did in Matthew 27:5 with what Peter did in John 20:1-7, 21:1-7. What would be good counsel for someone just confronted with sin? See also Romans 2:4.

5. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?